

Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission Meeting
Summary of Minutes
January 26, 2010

Regional Planning Commission Members Present:

Craig Bayston	Chad Miller
Craig Blanchette	Tim Schmidt
Bill Bukowski	Loretto Cowhig
David Bergdahl	George Washington, Jr.

Regional Planning Commission Members Absent:

Rich Howell	Rep. Lisa Dugan
Elisabeth Dunbar	Bud Bates
Mel Blanchette	Jeff Jarvis
Ralph Paarlberg	Mayor Samuel Payton
Chris Tholen	

No Quorum Present.

Kankakee County Planning Department Staff Present:

Mike Van Mill	Jim Greenstreet
Mike Lammey	Delbert Skimerhorn
Joel Simone	

Others Present:

Mayor Paul Schore, Village of Bourbonnais	Laurie Cyr, Village of Bourbonnais
---	------------------------------------

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Washington.

No public comment.

With no quorum present there was no action on the minutes from May 26, 2009 and September 22, 2009.

Presentation:

Mr. Van Mill gave some background on the needs and desires of the rural and urban mayors on their challenges of their downtown areas and their desires to re-develop their downtown area to make them a since of place.

Laurie Cyr, Community Development Director for the Village of Bourbonnais gave a presentation on their Downtown Re-Development Plan.

- The Vision Statement for the re-development is both a local attraction and a regional destination. The downtown attracts people to the unique setting and the activities that take place there. The physical setting and the traditional downtown will be created along with creating a pedestrian destination with architectural, civic design and a sense of heritage. The activities will include distinctive shops, restaurants, entertainment, and community events.

Note: These minutes are a synopsis of the meeting. If you need verbatim information, please contact the Planning Department about obtaining a recording.

The downtown will be connected to the events of the regional importance that are near the downtown, such as the Chicago Bears training camp and other events that are put on by Olivet Nazarene University. Using the downtown we would like to extend those activities for meals, lodging, shopping, and strolling through the downtown.

- The downtown plan's mission and reasons are to improve the downtown and to create a place of excitement and place someone would like to come to.
- The downtown was place in our community in the 1830's and 1840's. The Village's downtown is within the center of the community, due to its location of major arteries but it does not function as a commercial or social heart of the community.
- The goal of the downtown create a vibrant mixed use, this plan will develop a distinct sense of heritage and character making the downtown pedestrian friendly. Creating new development bring in the type of used making the downtown distinctive. Encouraging residential development also within the downtown bring mixed use district focused on community.
- On the plan there are 3 districts, the Convent district, the Main Street NW district and the Main Street core area district. Ms. Cyr talked about the differences in each district. There are three proposed round-a-bouts.
- There will be a public open house on February 22, 2010 from 5 to 7 p.m. Then it will go before the Village Board for approval.
- After Ms. Cyr presentation there was discussion with the Commission on the Plan.

Kankakee River Project:

Mr. Van Mill gave an update on the Kankakee River project. Kankakee River is our biggest asset and what that means. We have brought in 30 to 40 stock holders from a wide variety of interest together to evaluate the River from different perspective. We broke up into 4 working groups: Environmental, Sustainability, and Agriculture Committee; Community and Economic Development Committee; Tourism and Recreation Committee; and Public Education and Outreach. These committees are open to the public and are getting positive feedback.

Solid Waste Management Plan:

Mr. Van Mill informed the Commission that the County has been without an update for over 5 years. We were unable to get the Plan together at this time. Mr. Bossert met with the Executive Subcommittee of the Regional Planning Commission and would like the Commission be the sounding board and invite the municipalities to have input into the update of the Plan. We will be forwarded the Plan to the Commission as soon as it is available.

Subcommittee Updates:

Land Use/Transportation: Mr. Skimerhorn stated the Work Program has no changes to it. We have taken the Subcommittee and formed smaller work groups to effectively try and get the item accomplished. Land Use was split into 3 work groups: Work Group 1: Outreach and Policy; Work Group 2: Ag and Rural Development; and Work Group 3: Urban Development and Issues.

Note: These minutes are a synopsis of the meeting. If you need verbatim information, please contact the Planning Department about obtaining a recording.

Transportation was split into 4 work groups. Mr. Lammey informed the Commission that the work groups are Roadway Improvements; Commuter Transit; Planning Services and Outreach; and Traffic Safety Issues. There is an eighth work group River Study that dovetails in some fashion with the other River Study and the people on the work group are already meeting with the River Study group. Work Group 5 has a meeting on February 5th at 2 p.m. and Work Group 6 has a meeting February 2. We did change the number of member from 4 to 5, due to quorum being the same and with one more member better chance of getting at least 3 members to attend. Will meet on a as needed basis and until the listed items are done.

New/Old Business.

No new or old business.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Historic Preservation Commission – February 1, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.
- Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee – March 4, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting was adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Prepared by:
Michelle Sadler, Office Manager
Kankakee County Planning Dept.

Note: These minutes are a synopsis of the meeting. If you need verbatim information, please contact the Planning Department about obtaining a recording.